

ACANTHAMOEBA keratitis

Drug of choice: Topical 0.02% **chlorhexidine** and **polyhexamethylene biguanide** (PHMB, 0.02%), either alone or in combination, have been used successfully in a large number of patients. Treatment with either chlorhexidine or PHMB is often combined with **propamidine isethionate** (*Brolene*) or **hexamidine** (*Desmodine*). None of these drugs is commercially available or approved for use in the US, but they can be obtained from compounding pharmacies. Leiter's Park Avenue Pharmacy, San Jose, CA (800-292-6773; www.leiterrx.com) is a compounding pharmacy that specializes in ophthalmic drugs. **Propamidine** is available over the counter in the UK and Australia. **Hexamidine** is available in France. The combination of **chlorhexidine**, **natamycin** (**pimaricin**) and debridement also has been successful.¹ Debridement is most useful during the stage of corneal epithelial infection. Most cysts are resistant to **neomycin**; its use is no longer recommended. Azole antifungal drugs (**ketoconazole**, **itraconazole**) have been used as oral or topical adjuncts.² Use of corticosteroids is controversial.³

1. K Kitagawa et al, Jpn J Ophthalmol 2003; 47:616.
2. FL Shuster and GS Visvesvara, Drug Resist Update 2004; 7:41.
3. K Hammersmith, Curr Opinions Ophthal 2006; 17:327; ST Awwad et al, Eye Contact Lens 2007; 33:1.

Information provided by The Medical Letter. For a copy of the entire **Drugs for Parasitic Infections** article, go to: www.medicalletter.org/parasitic_cdc

MANUFACTURERS OF DRUGS USED TO TREAT PARASITIC INFECTIONS

- albendazole – *Albenza* (GlaxoSmithKline)
Albenza (GlaxoSmithKline) – albendazole
Alinia (Romark) – nitazoxanide
AmBisome (Gilead) – amphotericin B, liposomal
amphotericin B – *Fungizone* (Apothecon), others
amphotericin B, liposomal – *AmBisome* (Gilead)
Ancobon (Valeant) – flucytosine
§ *Antiminth* (Pfizer) – pyrantel pamoate
• *Aralen* (Sanofi) – chloroquine HCl and chloroquine phosphate
§ artemether – *Artenam* (Arenco, Belgium)
§ artemether/lumefantrine – *Coartem*, *Riamet* (Novartis)
§ *Artenam* (Arenco, Belgium) – artemether
§ artesunate – (Guilin No. 1 Factory, People's Republic of China)
atovaquone – *Mepron* (GlaxoSmithKline)
atovaquone/proguanil – *Malarone* (GlaxoSmithKline)
azithromycin – *Zithromax* (Pfizer), others
• *Bactrim* (Roche) – TMP/Sulfa
§ benznidazole – *Rochagan* (Brazil)
• *Biaxin* (Abbott) – clarithromycin
§ *Biltricide* (Bayer) – praziquantel
† bithionol – *Bitin* (Tanabe, Japan)
† *Bitin* (Tanabe, Japan) – bithionol
§ *Brolene* (Aventis, Canada) – propamidine isethionate
chloroquine HCl and chloroquine phosphate –
Aralen (Sanofi), others
clarithromycin – *Biaxin* (Abbott), others
• *Cleocin* (Pfizer) – clindamycin
clindamycin – *Cleocin* (Pfizer), others
Coartem (Novartis) – artemether/lumefantrine
crotamiton – *Eurax* (Westwood-Squibb)
dapson – (Jacobus)
§ *Daraprim* (GlaxoSmithKline) – pyrimethamine USP
† diethylcarbamazine citrate (DEC) – *Hetrazan*
• *Diflucan* (Pfizer) – fluconazole
§ diloxanide furoate – *Furamide* (Boots, United Kingdom)
doxycycline – *Vibramycin* (Pfizer), others
eflornithine (Difluoromethylornithine, DFMO) –
Ornidyl (Aventis)
§ *Egaten* (Novartis) – triclabendazole
Elimite (Allergan) – permethrin
Ergamisol (Janssen) – levamisole
Eurax (Westwood-Squibb) – crotamiton
• *Flagyl* (Pfizer) – metronidazole
§ *Flisint* (Sanofi-Aventis, France) – fumagillin
fluconazole – *Diflucan* (Pfizer), others
flucytosine – *Ancobon* (Valeant)
§ fumagillin – *Flisint* (Sanofi-Aventis, France)
• *Fungizone* (Apothecon) – amphotericin
§ *Furamide* (Boots, United Kingdom) – diloxanide furoate
§ furazolidone – *Furozone* (Roberts)
§ *Furozone* (Roberts) – furazolidone
† *Germanin* (Bayer, Germany) – suramin sodium
§ *Glucantime* (Aventis, France) – meglumine antimonate
† *Hetrazan* – diethylcarbamazine citrate (DEC)
Humatin (Monarch) – paromomycin
§ *Impavido* (Zentaris, Germany) – miltefosine
iodoquinol – *Yodoxin* (Glenwood), others
itraconazole – *Sporanox* (Janssen-Ortho), others
ivermectin – *Stromectol* (Merck)
ketoconazole – *Nizoral* (Janssen), others
† *Lampit* (Bayer, Germany) – nifurtimox
Lariam (Roche) – mefloquine
§ *Leshcutan* (Teva, Israel) – topical paromomycin
levamisole – *Ergamisol* (Janssen)
lumefantrine/artemether – *Coartem*, *Riamet* (Novartis)
Malarone (GlaxoSmithKline) – atovaquone/proguanil
malathion – *Ovide* (Medicis)
mebendazole – *Vermox* (McNeil), others
mefloquine – *Lariam* (Roche)
§ meglumine antimonate – *Glucantime* (Aventis, France)
† melarsoprol – *Mel-B*
† *Mel-B* – melarsoprol
Mepron (GlaxoSmithKline) – atovaquone
metronidazole – *Flagyl* (Pfizer), others
§ miconazole – *Monistat i.v.*
§ miltefosine – *Impavido* (Zentaris, Germany)
§ *Monistat i.v.* – miconazole
NebuPent (Fujisawa) – pentamidine isethionate
§ niclosamide – *Yomesan* (Bayer, Germany)
† nifurtimox – *Lampit* (Bayer, Germany)
nitazoxanide – *Alinia* (Romark)
Nix (GlaxoSmithKline) – permethrin
• *Nizoral* (Janssen) – ketoconazole
§ ornidazole – *Tiberal* (Roche, France)
Ornidyl (Aventis) – eflornithine (Difluoromethylornithine, DFMO)
Ovide (Medicis) – malathion
§ oxamniquine – *Vansil* (Pfizer)
§ *Paludrine* (AstraZeneca, United Kingdom) – proguanil
paromomycin – *Humatin* (Monarch); *Leshcutan* (Teva, Israel; topical formulation not available in US)
Pentam 300 (Fujisawa) – pentamidine isethionate
pentamidine isethionate – *Pentam 300* (Fujisawa), *NebuPent* (Fujisawa)
† *Pentostam* (GlaxoSmithKline, United Kingdom) – sodium stibogluconate
permethrin – *Nix* (GlaxoSmithKline), *Elimite* (Allergan)
§ praziquantel – *Biltricide* (Bayer)
primaquine phosphate USP
§ proguanil – *Paludrine* (AstraZeneca, United Kingdom)
proguanil/atovaquone – *Malarone* (GlaxoSmithKline)
§ propamidine isethionate – *Brolene* (Aventis, Canada)
§ pyrantel pamoate – *Antiminth* (Pfizer)
pyrethrins and piperonyl butoxide – *RID* (Pfizer), others
§ pyrimethamine USP – *Daraprim* (GlaxoSmithKline)
Qualaquin – quinine sulfate (Mutual Pharmaceutical Co/AR Scientific)
quinacrine
* quinidine gluconate (Eli Lilly)
§ quinine dihydrochloride
quinine sulfate – *Qualaquin* (Mutual Pharmaceutical Co/AR Scientific)
Riamet (Novartis) – artemether/lumefantrine
• *RID* (Pfizer) – pyrethrins and piperonyl butoxide
• *Rifadin* (Aventis) – rifampin
rifampin – *Rifadin* (Aventis), others
§ *Rochagan* (Brazil) – benznidazole
* *Rovamycine* (Aventis) – spiramycin
† sodium stibogluconate – *Pentostam* (GlaxoSmithKline, United Kingdom)
* spiramycin – *Rovamycine* (Aventis)
• *Sporanox* (Janssen-Ortho) – itraconazole

(continued)

<i>Stromectol</i> (Merck) – ivermectin	§ triclabendazole – <i>Egaten</i> (Novartis)
sulfadiazine – (Eon)	§ <i>Vansil</i> (Pfizer) – oxamniquine
† suramin sodium – <i>Germanin</i> (Bayer, Germany)	• <i>Vermox</i> (McNeil) – mebendazole
§ <i>Tiberal</i> (Roche, France) – ornidazole	• <i>Vibramycin</i> (Pfizer) – doxycycline
<i>Tindamax</i> (Mission) – tinidazole	• <i>Yodoxin</i> (Glenwood) – iodoquinol
tinidazole – <i>Tindamax</i> (Mission)	§ <i>Yomesan</i> (Bayer, Germany) – niclosamide
TMP/Sulfa – <i>Bactrim</i> (Roche), others	• <i>Zithromax</i> (Pfizer) – azithromycin

* Available in the US only from the manufacturer.

§ Not available commercially. It may be obtained through compounding pharmacies such as Panorama Compounding Pharmacy, 6744 Balboa Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91406 (800-247-9767) or Medical Center Pharmacy, New Haven, CT (203-688-6816). Other compounding pharmacies may be found through the National Association of Compounding Pharmacies (800-687-7850) or the Professional Compounding Centers of America (800-331-2498, www.pccarx.com).

† Available from the CDC Drug Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; 404-639-3670 (evenings, weekends, or holidays: 770-488-7100).

• Also available generically.

Information provided by The Medical Letter. For a copy of the entire **Drugs for Parasitic Infections** article, go to: www.medicalletter.org/parasitic_cdc